

-12-

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 34, 37 and 38 and the finding that claims 6-25 and 44-63 would be allowed if redrafted in independent form to include the limitations of respective base claims. Other claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Without acquiescing to the rejection, but in order to expedite issuance of the application, rejected claims 1, 35, 36 and 39 have been cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to file those claims in a continuation application. The objected to claims 6, 19, 44 and 57 have been amended to include the limitations of their respective base claims. Accordingly, those claims should now be allowable. All other claims either originally depended from claims 6, 19, 44 or 57 or have been amended to depend from one of those allowable claims. Accordingly, all remaining claims should now be allowable.

The Examiner noted a conflict between the claims of this application and those of application 10/040,960. The latter application has been allowed to go abandoned, so no conflict remains.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 
James M. Smith
Registration No. 28,043
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated:

1/3/04